

Abstract of the Disclosure

A sublancin peptide variant (lantibody) having a spacer region and a subtilin leader peptide fused to the C-terminal end of the mature sublancin peptide provide an anchoring means for inserting and retaining the lantibody in a host cell wall without affecting the intracellular processing of the lantibody, host cell expression of the molecule on the cell surface or the biological activity of the mature sublancin peptide in extracellular, cell-wall-bound form. Target molecules that bind to the lantibody and methods of engineering a peptide variant gene, plasmid and a host cell transformant are described as are methods of using a lantibody to identify new target molecules.